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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 :  
REF ID: A676R001300060047-3

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[Redacted]

NRO review(s) completed.

13 January 1965

The Honorable Brockway McMillan  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brock:

I enclose herewith the original and one copy of our proposed Memorandum of Agreement on CORONA. This has been worked over very carefully by General Stewart with my people and it is acceptable to me. I understand that it has been discussed with you by General Stewart and I would hope that you would likewise find it acceptable. I have therefore signed the original and the carbon and will consider the agreement in full force and effect upon receipt of one of the copies with your signature thereon.

This has been a long period of negotiation but I think we have finally established a relationship that is not only workable but is mutually compatible with national security as well as Agency and Departmental interests.

Faithfully yours,

/S/

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

Attachment

MSC:blp

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

SUBJECT: CORONA

1. This agreement between the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based upon policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The CORONA Program is a national endeavor involving the United States Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA Program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once:

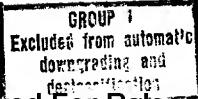
a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the Director, SAFSP, reporting directly to the D/NRO. The program manager is responsible to the D/NRO for the successful prosecution of the CORONA Program, for overall technical direction, and for the direction of the field operations, responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center.

b. All CIA technical and contractual activities in the CORONA Program will be consolidated under a senior CIA representative who will report to and be located in the Offices of the Director, SAFSP. Specifically, the senior CIA representative will be responsible for the following:

(1) Provide technical direction for the CORONA payload. By payload it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system.

(2) Be the single authoritative point of contact within the Government for CIA - let CORONA contracts (specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK) for technical direction, contracting, and security. He will

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be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for product improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on system elements not peculiar to the payload (for example, certain re-entry vehicle components) may well come from [redacted] through the senior CIA representative.

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(3) Be the Payload Member of a CORONA System Configuration Control Board reporting to the Director, SAFSP.

(4) Be the Chairman of a CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting directly to the Director, SAFSP.

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(5) Control and direct the personnel and functions of the [redacted] facility at Palo Alto, including the payload systems integration effort.

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3. [redacted] will provide systems engineering services for the CORONA Program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [redacted] and the CIA contractors will be accomplished under the guidance of and/or in coordination with the senior CIA representative, as appropriate.

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4. The [redacted] facility will continue to provide software support to the CORONA Program (for example, nominal and actual ephemeris computation, camera programming, etc.) as it has in the past. In this respect, the [redacted] will be directly responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations. In addition, the assets available at the [redacted] will continue to be available for support of operations analysis.

1/ Marshall S. Carter  
Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

12 January 1965  
Date

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Mr. Knoche:

*HL*

Checked with Eunice on Friday,  
22 January, and we have not as yet received  
from Dr. McMillan a copy of the agreement  
also signed by him. But you are probably up  
to date on this as result of your meetings in  
LA.

Barbara

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